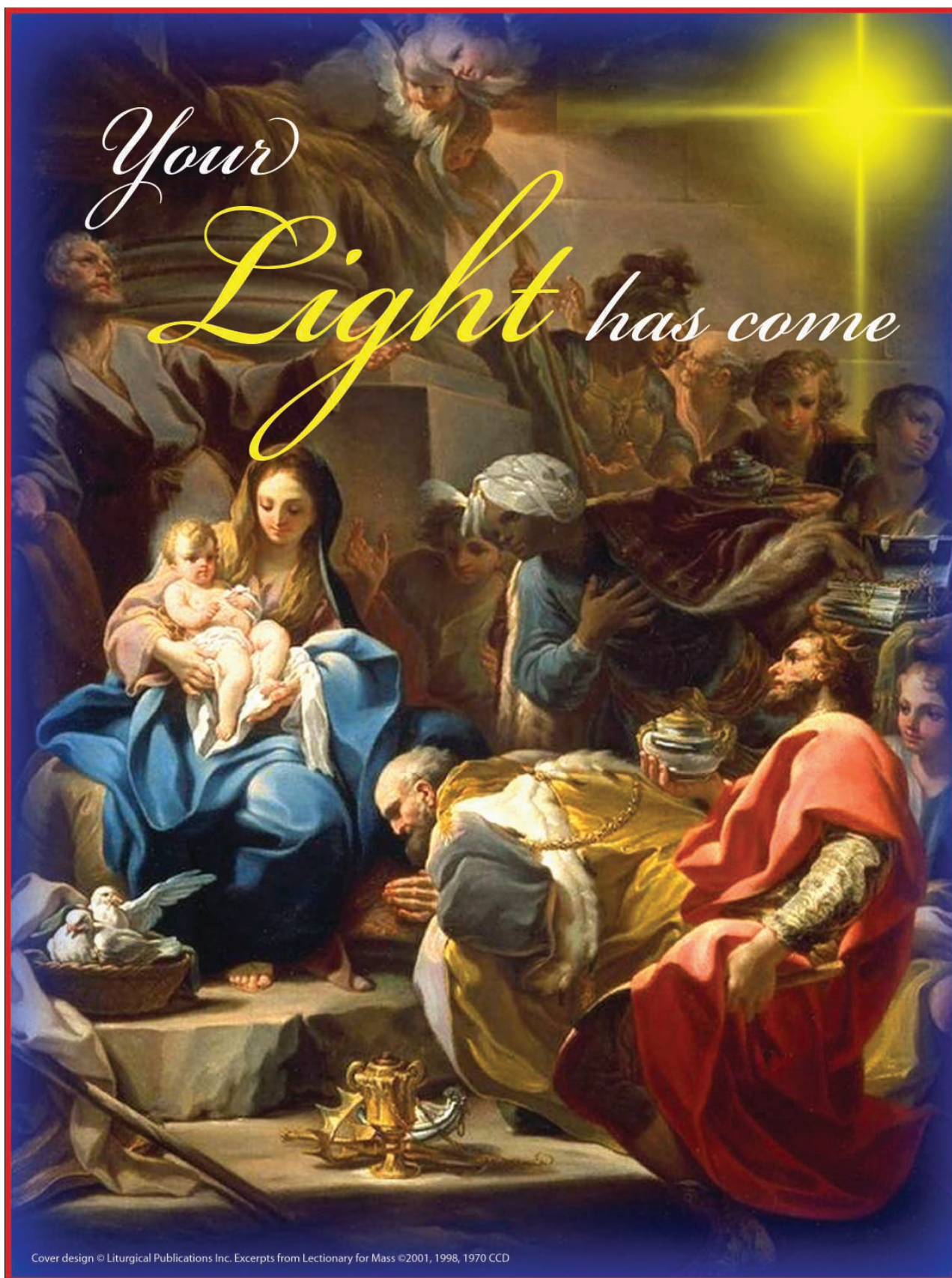


Church of St. Peter
1405 Highway 13 PO Box 50679 Mendota MN 55150-0679
December 28, 2014-January 4, 2015



Reflections from our Pastor

My dear friends,

This time of year we celebrate the Feast of Epiphany; a Greek word that means “manifestation.” In and through the whole mystery of the Incarnation, by taking on our humanity, God is “manifesting” Himself to the world, making Himself visible in Jesus Christ, and thereby revealing His will. All the events and teaching we find recorded in the four Gospels show us how this divine “manifestation” evolves in the life of Jesus. Of special note, and highlighted throughout the four Gospels, are several “key moments” when certain individuals or groups understand the meaning of this divine “manifestation,” and by faith, recognize Jesus as their Messiah and Lord, as the Son of the living God and Savior of the World. Many people heard Jesus speak and witnessed His actions, but only a few came to believe in His divinity and opened their hearts to the presence and power of God within Him.

To better understand the feast of Epiphany we have only to look closely at our own experience. Each of us has an “inner life,” a secret, hidden world within our hearts. It is there that we ponder and think, where we desire and dream, where we feel. Though God’s loving gaze is able to know our deepest thoughts and desires at every moment, the only way other people can know them is if we “manifest” them in some way: either by words, or by our facial expressions, or by a gesture or some kind of action. I can vocalize my inner thoughts and concerns about the economy with a friend over coffee. I can show my love for a stranger with a smile and a kind “hello.” I may manifest my desire to comfort someone with an embrace or a hand on their shoulder. I can share my hopeful dream for the future of our parish by writing it in the bulletin.

God too has an inner life that would be hidden from us unless He revealed it. And by the fact that we are created in God’s own image and likeness, it is important that our interior life be shaped and informed by the thoughts and desires of God. What is God’s hope and desire for us and for the world? What does God want us to know about Him and ourselves? Why do I exist? Is there such a thing as ‘truth’ that I can fully trust? What is love, really? What is the meaning of life? Why is there evil, suffering, and death? Is there anything after death? The Feast of Epiphany celebrates the “revealing” of God’s inner life within the Trinity and the “manifestation” of His own mind and heart, His wisdom and will regarding ourselves and His plan to save us. What the law and prophets foreshadowed in part is now fully revealed in Christ.

The Magi were among the first to witness this “manifestation” of God in Christ. Though their journey ended when they found the new infant-king, Pope Benedict once remarked that at this moment “a new journey began for them which changed their whole lives. Having seen the power and majesty of God come with such humility—in the poverty of the manger and littleness of an infant, how could they stay the same? How could they go back to ‘life as normal?’” Benedict rightly says that they had to change their ideas about power, about God, and about what it means to be human. In short, they had to change their hearts and their lives.

Though the 33 years of Jesus Christ on earth holds the greatest importance for the faith and life of the Church, God continues to “manifest” Himself to us in many ways. Comforting are the last words of Jesus recorded in Matthew: “I will be with you always, even to the end of time.” Each sacrament is a kind of “epiphany,” a “manifestation,” a true encounter with God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God is invisible, we cannot see Him, so He makes use of visible things such as bread and wine, oil and flame, word and gesture to manifest His invisible presence and action. We bring to the sacraments the gift of faith so that we can receive the invisible grace that God communicates through visible signs. The important thing, like the Magi, is that we allow these personal encounters with the Lord to change us, to convert us. When I encounter the gentle, tender mercy of Jesus in Reconciliation, do I allow my own hard, critical heart to melt and become more patient and merciful toward others? When I am privileged to encounter Jesus’ overwhelming love for me in Holy Communion, do I turn around and love as He loves, giving and laying down my life for others? When I encounter Jesus each day in prayer, will I let Him gently correct the dishonesty toward myself and others, my rationalizations and excuses for putting off certain changes I need to make? When Jesus manifests His will through the teaching of the Church, will I acquiesce and follow it, or will I cling to my own opinions and try to plow my own path? When Jesus manifests His thirst for love in the poor and needy in my life, will I hear His voice and recognize His presence, or will I ignore Him, or throw Him only ‘a crumb’ of what I am capable of?

Draw us ever closer to you O’ Lord, and help us to live a deeply personal relationship with you. May all the ways You so generously manifest Yourself to us heal and change us, so that we may become “manifestations” of Your Kingdom in the world.

God love you,



Fr. Steven

Religious Education/ Faith Formation (RE/FF)

Elementary and Middle School Religious Education

There will be no grades 1-8 classes on Wednesday, December 31, due to the Christmas break. We will resume classes on Wednesday, January 7. Grade 2 will not resume classes until January 28.

Sunday School and Liturgy of the Word for Children

There will be no Sunday School or Liturgy of the Word for Children on Sunday, January 4. We will resume both of these programs on Sunday, January 11.

First Eucharist Program—Grade 2

Classes for the First Eucharist Program will begin on Wednesday, January 28. Your second grade child should have been registered in the Reconciliation Program and will therefore be automatically enrolled in the First Eucharist program. Please call Kathy Raible at 651-905-4311 if you have any questions or concerns.

Confirmation

Registration for Confirmation preparation will open in January for all parishioners currently in 9th grade. Information will be mailed to all registered families with a ninth grader in their household, and information will be available online. If you have any questions, please visit the parish website at www.stpetersmendota.org or contact Ed Overell at 651-905-4312.

Eucharistic Adoration

Parishioners and friends are welcome for private prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in the Historic Church
**on Tuesdays
after the 9 a.m. Mass until 6 p.m.**

Matthew 26:40-41—Jesus said to Peter:

***“Could you not watch
with me one hour?
Watch and pray.”***

For more information please contact

Jane Vasiliou
at 651-454-5292
or

jvasiliou@comcast.net



**Come as a Guest
Leave as a Friend**

Hearing and Vision Aids Available for Mass

If you find it hard to hear at Mass or your ability to participate is inhibited by difficulty reading the hymnal or worship aids, we can help with that. Please see one of our friendly ushers and let them know of your need. We have hearing devices and magnifiers available for you to use while you're here. Thank you.

New Parishioner Registration

Interested in joining the parish? New parishioner registration will be held after all Masses January 3 and 4 in the Gathering Space. You can also register by clicking on the “Community/Join St. Peter’s” link on the parish website.

Readings for the Week of December 28

Sunday: Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 or Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/
Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 or Col 3:12-21
or 3:12-17/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40
Monday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35
Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Lk 2:36-40
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Jn 1:1-18
Thursday: Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
Friday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Jn 1:19-28
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:29--3:6/Jn 1:29-34
Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

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Readings for the Week of January 4

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
Monday: 1 Jn 3:22--4:6/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Mk 6:45-52
Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19--5:4/Lk 4:14-22a
Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Lk 5:12-16
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Jn 3:22-30
Next Sunday: Is 55:1-11 or Is 42:1-4, 6-7/1 Jn 5:1-9 or
Acts 10:34-38/Mk 1:7-11

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St. Peter's Community News

Annual Giving

Weekly Contribution Summary

Contribution totals were not available when the bulletin was printed.

Year End Gift Opportunities

Automatic Withdrawal—Electronic Funds Transfer

Please consider using our automatic giving program through our ACH program. Forms are available in the parish office or online.

Stock Contributions

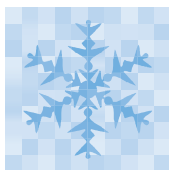
Appreciated stock is a great way to make a contribution AND perhaps maximize your tax benefit. Please contact the parish office.

Employer Matching Funds

You may wish to consult with your employer to determine if a matching gift can double the value of your contribution to our parish or one of our specific ministries.

End of the Year Information

Parishioners are reminded that all donations must be received in the parish office by Wednesday, December 31, or postmarked by Wednesday, December 31, to be included as a 2014 contribution. No exceptions can be made. If a stock contribution is to be made, be sure to allow enough time for the transaction to be completed. Stock transfer instructions are available by calling Mary Jubenville at 651-905-4307.



Giving Tree Thank You!

Through your efforts, our Giving Tree was able to help 43 families for Christmas. We sincerely thank all those who participated this year. It wouldn't be possible without your generosity in purchasing gifts and the dedication of time by countless volunteers, including our Confirmation candidates. You have brought hope to those who are hurting. May you and your families have a Blessed Christmas.



Retirement Fund for Religious

Thank you! "We can certainly call you friends because of the way you care for our retired members," writes a religious brother. Your gift to the collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious benefits some 35,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. May God bless you for your generosity!

OUR VISION

We envision St. Peter's to be a dynamic and growing parish through our: expressions of faith and worship, service to one another and the broader community, welcoming new members, compassion and ministry in pastoral care, and stewardship of God's gifts and blessings.

OUR MISSION

The Church of St. Peter, the first Catholic parish in Minnesota, serves as a cornerstone of faith and heritage, where we welcome all to celebrate and live as the Body of Christ. We embrace our commitment to continue this founding legacy, care for future generations, and advance the Kingdom of God.

Mass Intentions

The following are the intentions remembered by the priest at Mass:

Monday, December 29 - †Czeslawa Smyczek

Tuesday, December 30 - †Dan and †Bill Goetz

Wednesday, December 31 - 9 a.m. - †Bill Curley
4 p.m. - Mass For the People

Thursday, January 1 - 10 a.m. - †Florence May

Friday, January 2 - Tom and Mary Curley

Saturday, January 3 - Mass For the People

Sunday, January 4 - 9 a.m. - †Jack Conway
11 a.m. - †Florence Reid

Monday, January 5 - †Mary Margaret Trettel

Tuesday, January 6 - †Mary Chapdelaine

Wednesday, January 7 - †Estelle Knapp

Thursday, January 8 - †Esther Taylor

Friday, January 9 - †Hal & †Dorothy Curley

Saturday, January 10 - †Tom & †Pearl Bernier

Sunday, January 11 - 9 a.m. - Mass For the People
11 a.m. - †Bill Olson



The Week of December 29

Monday, December 29

- 9 am** Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)
7 pm Boy Scouts, Ravoux Room

Tuesday, December 30

- 9 am** Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)
Adoration Before Blessed Sacrament
After the 9 am Mass Until 6 pm

Wednesday, December 31

- 9 am** Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)
4 pm Mary, Holy Mother of God Mass,
Main Church

Thursday, January 1—Mary, Holy Mother of God

Parish Office Closed

- 10 am** Mass, Main Church (9:40 rosary)
7 pm Alcoholics Anonymous, Room 5
7 pm Al-Anon, Room 7
7 pm Teen Al-Anon, Room 6

Friday, January 2

- 9 am** Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)

Saturday, January 3

- 9 and 10:30 am**
Alcoholics Anonymous, Rooms 2, 4
10 am Scripture Study, Conference Room I
4 pm Reconciliation, Main Church
4:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
5 pm Mass, Main Church
After Mass:
New Parishioner Registration

Sunday, January 4—Epiphany of the Lord

- 8:30 & 10:30 am**
Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
9 am Mass With Baptism, Main Church
11 am Mass, Main Church
After Masses:
New Parishioner Registration
Hospitality

**VISIT OUR
WEBSITE AT
www.stpetersmendota.org**

The Week of January 5

Monday, January 5

- 9 am** Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)
6 pm St. Paul Civic Symphony,
Heritage Center
7 pm Boy Scouts, Ravoux Room

Tuesday, January 6

Loaves and Fishes

- 9 am** Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)
Adoration Before Blessed Sacrament
After the 9 am Mass Until 6 pm
9:45 am Women's Bible Study,
Conference Room I, Ravoux Room

Wednesday, January 7

- 9 am** Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)
9:45 am Divine Mercy Cenacle, Ravoux Room
4:30 pm Grades 1, 3-5
6:30 pm Choir, Music Room
6:30 pm Grades 1, 3-8

Thursday, January 8

- 9 am** Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)
7 pm Alcoholics Anonymous, Room 5
7 pm Al-Anon, Room 7
7 pm Teen Al-Anon, Room 6

Friday, January 9

- 9 am** Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)

Saturday, January 10

- 9 and 10:30 am**
Alcoholics Anonymous, Rooms 2, 4
10 am Scripture Study, Conference Room I
4 pm Reconciliation, Main Church
4:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
5 pm Mass, Main Church
After Mass:
Pizza Bingo Sign Up

Sunday, January 11—Baptism of the Lord

- 8:30 & 10:30 am**
Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
9 am Mass, Main Church
9&11 am Liturgy of the Word for Children
9 am Sunday School
10 am Confirmation Class
11 am Mass, Main Church
After Masses:
Pizza Bingo Sign Up
1 pm Baptism Prep Class,
Conference Room I



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Minute Memo from Ms. Shimshock

uring this Advent season I have been using The Faith of St. Nick by Ann Nichols as way to center my day. The real life of St. Nicholas mirrors in some ways our modern version of St. Nick. Nicholas of Myra, or St. Nick, had a strong devotion to the Nativity story. This ties him most directly to the season. Even when he was imprisoned due to his Christian beliefs, he prayed the story of the Nativity with others, much to the chagrin of his captors. His life proves how just one person with a strong faith can make such a difference in the world.

We at Faithful Shepherd Catholic School hope your Christmas celebration was filled with family, friends and shared memories, but mostly, during the busyness of the season, we wish you quiet time to grow, as you too, remember the Nativity story.

Christmas Blessings,
Ms. Shimshock

Parish Pastoral Council

Sarah Larsen, Chair 612-384-1474
Lance Miller, Vice-Chair 952-432-6957
Alice Sheeler, Secretary 651-457-8119
Mary Pat Ferraro 651-454-1091
Anne Hallgren 651-702-6465
Paul Hirsch 651-431-1832
Maria Schwartz 651-452-1796
Nancy Stanton 651-686-9009
Joseph Towle 651-683-9250

Parish Pastoral Council Voice Mailbox:
651-905-4309

Parish Pastoral Council Email:
ParishPastoralCouncil@stpetersmendota.org

Trustees:

Jim Oricchio 651-452-3587
Helen Wilkie 651-365-1334

PASTOR:

Fr. Steven Hoffman 651-905-4305

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE:

Lisa Amos 651-905-4304

BUSINESS MANAGER:

Mary Jubenville 651-905-4307
Heritage Center Rental Information
Mary Jubenville, staff contact 651-905-4307

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/FAITH FORMATION:

Kathy Raible, Director 651-905-4311
Ed Overell, Youth Coordinator 651-905-4312
Beth Halbert, Sunday School Coordinator ... 651-905-4313
Religious Education Information Line 651-905-4314

MUSIC/LITURGY:

David Dunst, Director 651-905-4323

COMMUNITY LIFE COORDINATOR:

Sara Rogers 651-905-4308

OFFICE STAFF:

Darlene Olson, Communications Coord. 651-905-4302
Carolyn Rynders, Receptionist 651-452-4550

MAINTENANCE:

Tom Deshler 651-905-4322
John Raible 651-452-4550

Parish Office 651-452-4550

Office Hours 8 am-4 pm Monday through Friday

Fax 651-456-0646

E-mail: church@stpetersmendota.org

Parish School: Faithful Shepherd

651-406-4747
3355 Columbia Drive
Eagan, MN 55121



SUNDAY MASSES

(all in the Main Church)
Saturday 5 pm
Sunday 9 am and 11 am

WEEKDAY MASSES

(all in the Historic Church)
9 am Monday-Friday

HOLY DAYS As announced.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 4 to 4:45 pm or by appointment.

BAPTISMS, NEW PARISHIONERS, WEDDINGS

Call the parish office for more information.

PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS

Mary LeClair E-mail: maryleclair62@gmail.com
or call the parish office at 651-452-4550.

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